

Native Wetland Vegetation

Native plants (suggested by UNH Family Garden Center) listed below do well in wet environments and offer great wildlife habitat. You should research each plant to determine its soil and sunlight needs.

For more information, refer to:

<http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Pubs/HGPubs/plntshor.pdf>

Ferns:

Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*)

Shrubs:

Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium orymbosum*)
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

Trees:

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Ground Covers:

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus uinquelfolia*)
Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium vacillans*)
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)

Other plants that do well in NH: Solomon's Seal, Pussy Willow, Azalia, Cardinal Flower, New England Aster, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Milkweed, False Indigo, Chokeberry, Cranberry, Mountain Laurel, Pitcher Plant, Columbine, Ligularia 'Rocket' or 'Desdemona', Butterfly Weed, Goatsbeard, Bleeding Heart.

Want additional information?

Wetlands and Wetland Buffers

Nashua Conservation Commission

(603) 589-3105



Local Land Use Regulations

Nashua Planning and Zoning Department

(603) 589-3090

To Report Land Use Violations

Nashua Code Enforcement

(603) 589-3100

Above offices located in the
Community Development Division
City Hall, 2nd floor
229 Main Street, PO Box 2019
Nashua, New Hampshire 03061-2019

www.gonashua.com



Wetlands and NH Regulations

NH Department of Environmental Services

Water Division, Wetlands Bureau
6 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095
(603) 271-2147
www.des.state.nh.us



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Guide to Protect Nashua's Wetlands and Wetland Buffers

Who should read this brochure? If you live

near a wetland – a river, lake, stream (some may dry up in the summer), brook, bog, pond, marsh, wet meadow, or other wetland - part of your property may be in a protected wetland buffer zone. In Nashua, wetlands and their surrounding areas are protected under Nashua's Revised Land Use Code. Protections include, but are not limited to: prohibitions on digging, filling, mowing, cutting trees, building structures, disposing of yard wastes and use of fertilizers in or near wetlands.

If you don't live near a wetland, you can still harm water quality. Non-point source pollution is caused by rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation which runs over land or through the ground, picking up pollutants and depositing them into wetlands or ground water. Pollutants include: sediment from soil erosion and road sanding; fertilizers, animal wastes, pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides), road salt; and toxins like motor oil, paint, anti-freeze.

What is a wetland? In New Hampshire, RSA 482-A:2 defines a **wetland** as "an area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal conditions does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions."

Wetland Protection



Nashua River

Why protect wetlands? Wetland functions include storing floodwaters, preventing soil erosion, stabilizing banks, protecting and improving water quality from pesticides, contaminants and sediment, providing fish and wildlife habitats, and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. Wetlands also provide recreational opportunities, aesthetic benefits and sites for research and education.

Want to work within a wetland buffer in Nashua? To impact land near a wetland “for any use, building, structure, or development within the wetland areas or buffers,” a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) must be obtained. Impacts include, but are not limited to: home additions, fences, decks, sheds, patios, porches, culverts, bridges, swimming pools, and tree cutting.

Projects that may impact a wetland or a wetland buffer need to obtain approval from one or more of the following boards/agencies:

- Nashua Conservation Commission
- Zoning Board Adjustment
- State of New Hampshire

Please contact the Nashua Planning Department for guidance on the application process to any of these boards.

Wetland Categories

Certain amounts of wetland buffer protection apply to properties abutting wetlands, depending on the type of wetland being impacted.

Nashua recognizes five categories of wetlands, each with different levels of protection. To determine which category a wetland falls into, refer to Nashua's Land Use Regulations, Article III, Division 10 which states: “the buffer shall be measured horizontally outward and perpendicular to the edge of the delineated wetland.”

Prime Wetlands **75 foot buffers**

- Merrimack River*
- Nashua River*
- Salmon Brook*
- Pennichuck Brook, Bower's Pond, Harris Pond, Holts Pond, Pennichuck Pond, Supply Pond*
- Lovewell's Pond*
- Horse Pond*
- Old Ridge Road wetlands
- Nashua Canal
- Nashua Cove

Critical Wetlands * **40 foot buffers**

Boire Brook	Hassells Brook
Coburn Pond	Lincoln Brook
Cold Brook	Lyle Reed Brook
Colerain Brook	Mill Pond
Hales Brook	Muddy Brook
Harris Brook	Old Maids Brook
Round Pond	Spectacle Brook
Spit Brook	Trout Brook
Sandy Pond	

Other wetlands over 9,000 sq ft **40 feet**

Other wetlands over 3,000 sq ft **20 feet**

Vernal Pools **20 foot minimum buffer**

* Protection extends to their wetlands

Buffer Protection

What is a buffer? A wetland buffer is the dry area upland from the wetland. This area protects the wetland and its wildlife. Vegetated buffers provide wildlife corridors allowing animals to hide from predators. They offer food, shelter and nesting habitat for fish, mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. They protect the wetlands from soil erosion and other pollutants including yard chemicals, oils, pet waste, salt, sediment, litter. They keep water cleaner, fish healthier and deter geese. Nashua regulates the minimum amount of buffered area depending on the wetland category.

Disturbing wetlands and wetland buffers without proper authorization can result in civil penalties by City and State laws.

Buffer Protection Tips:

- Dispose of leaves, branches and other yard waste in cans or bags at the curb-side for free removal by the City.
- Slow-release fertilizers are recommended for lawns outside the wetland buffer.
- Please use calcium chloride for ice removal on driveways and sidewalks.
- Removal of vegetation in buffers can encourage the growth of invasive plants which may crowd out native vegetation and are difficult to eradicate. For details on invasive plants see: <http://www.nashuarpc.org/envplanning/invasiveplants.pdf>
- Cover loose soil with native vegetation or mulch to discourage invasives.
- Use erosion control for construction projects affecting buffers. Please use straw -- not hay.
- Limit lawn mowing to reduce wildlife and nesting habitat disturbance.
- Avoid cutting vegetation or installing fencing which may alter wildlife migration. Consider a vegetative border, like Arborvitae, instead of fencing.

